

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Thirtieth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Thirtieth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.1% (1,332) reside in the Thirtieth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (253) of Thirtieth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 68.9% of admissions from the Thirtieth Middlesex Representative District were male and 31% were female.
- Over 64.7% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 83.6% of admissions were white non-Latino, 6.6% were black non-Latino, 5.48% were Latino, 0.2% were Asian and 3.9% were other racial categories.
- 70.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 8.7% were married, and 12.3% reported not to be married now.
- 27.9% of admissions had less than high school education, 50.6% completed high school, and 21.4% had more than high school education.
- 20.5% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 22.1% of those admitted were homeless.
- 16.2% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

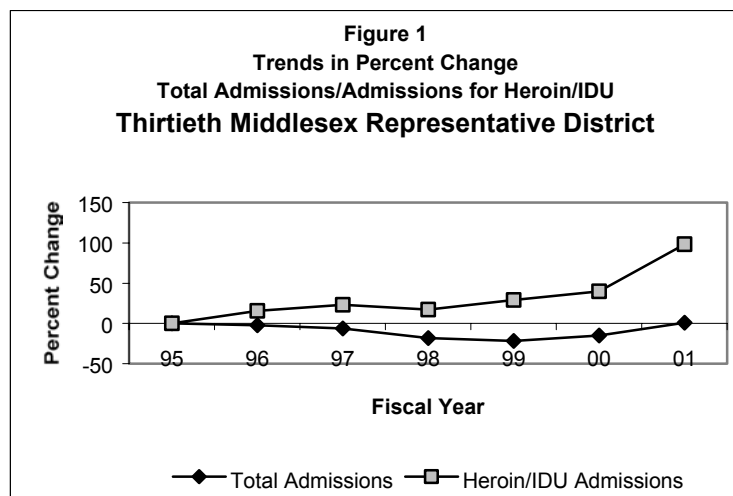
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Thirtieth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Thirtieth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,320	1,122	458	544	308	333	203
FY '96	1,289	1,095	430	445	309	373	246
FY '97	1,239	1,031	381	407	300	392	268
FY '98	1,080	875	369	346	197	365	264
FY '99	1,031	814	324	341	183	394	298
FY '00	1,120	833	320	332	151	426	324
FY '01	1,332	1,024	387	425	214	604	460

- Since FY 1995, residents of Thirtieth Middlesex Representative District reported a decrease in crack use, but an increase in heroin use. Crack use decreased by 30%, while heroin use increased by 81%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use decreased by 8%, marijuana by 15%, and cocaine use by 21%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Thirtieth Middlesex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities remained steady between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 98.5%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Thirtieth Middlesex Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	47.3%	37.3%	3.4%	4.1%	3.0%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While marijuana and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol, heroin, and cocaine was higher within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000